



## GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

These additional games and activities can be used throughout the Connected Easter series. If you want to integrate more movement and interaction into your lesson, check out these options. We've included tips to make the games and activities inclusive for all kids and have designated which games are intended for each lesson in the series.

### GAME 1: SANDAL SCRAMBLE

**SUPPLIES:** masking or painter's tape or cones

Ahead of time, use masking or painter's tape to create a start line on the floor or use cones to mark the start line.

In this game, kids will race each other to take off their shoes and put them back on.

This game works great with The Burning Bush lesson!

#### Make It Inclusive!

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

If any kids have trouble taking off and putting on shoes or are uncomfortable doing so, provide disposable shoe covers or several pairs of adult-size slip-on slippers for kids to put on over their shoes.

Gather kids and divide the group into two teams. **Just like Moses removed his sandals in God's big story today, let's play a game where we race to take off our shoes and put them back on again.**

**One at a time, you'll race to the other side of the room, remove your shoes, and line them up along the wall.** Point to the wall on the opposite side of the room. **Then you'll run back to tag the next person and get in line again. Your second time through the line, you'll find your shoes, put them on, tie them (if they have shoelaces), and run back to tag the next person. The team to take off their shoes and put them back on first wins!** (For safety, make sure kids don't run with their shoelaces untied. Station a teen or adult volunteer near the line of shoes to assist kids who need help tying their shoes.)

**Leader Tip:** For Younger Kids. If playing with younger kids, don't divide the group into teams. Instruct kids to remove their shoes and line them along the wall. Then have kids spread out and race to put their shoes back on at the same time.

Congratulate the winning team and affirm everyone for a job well done! Then continue: **When Moses saw a bush on fire but not burning, God called out to him. God told Moses to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground! Then God sent Moses to bring His people out of Egypt because God hears and sees His people.**

## GAME 2: RESCUE RELAY

**SUPPLIES:** 25'-to-50' ropes (2), empty 2 L plastic bottles or large plastic hoops (2), masking or painter's tape or cones

This game works great with the Crossing the Red Sea lesson!

**Leader Tip:** Instead of having all kids play, select two teams of three volunteers each to play on a stage. The rest of the kids can watch and cheer on the teams!

Ahead of time, use masking or painter's tape to create start and finish lines on the floor, or use cones to mark the start and finish lines.

Tie the end of a rope around an empty two-liter plastic bottle or large plastic hoop to create a rescue rope. Repeat to create a second rescue rope. Set the bottles or hoops at one end of the room by the finish line. Stretch the ropes across the room and place their loose ends at the start line.

In this game, kids will race to complete the rescue relay mission first.

Gather kids and divide the group into two teams. **In God's big story, we read about God rescuing His people by providing a way through the Red Sea. We're going to do a fun rescue relay mission of our own! When I say, "Go!" the first person will pull the rope until the bottle reaches the start line. Then she will grab the bottle, race across the room, place the bottle/hoop behind the finish line, and then run back to tag the next person in line. Demonstrate this for the kids, making sure the rope still extends back to the start line when the bottle/hoop is behind the finish line. The first team to have all of their members complete the rescue mission wins!**

Once both teams have finished the rescue mission, congratulate the winning team and affirm all the kids for being excellent rescuers. Then gather kids and continue: **Today we practiced our rescue skills, but God's ability to rescue is much greater. God rescued His people from slavery and made the way for the people of Israel to escape through the Red Sea on dry ground! God is the ultimate rescuer!**

### Make It Inclusive!

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

Kids can pull the ropes from a standing or seated position. If some kids have limited mobility, encourage them to be the full-time rope puller who pulls the rope (from a seated position) to bring the bottle/hoop back to the start line each time. Their teammates will then take turns running the bottle/hoop back to the finish line each time.

# GAME 3: WONDER EGGS

**SUPPLIES:** plastic eggs (24 per small group), box or plastic container (1 per small group), scissors (prep only)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Wonder Eggs Sheet (1 per small group)

This game works great with the Holy Week lesson!

**Leader Tip:** For younger kids, use fewer eggs and don't have any empty eggs. Then help them read the words as needed. For older kids, don't tell them ahead of time that some of the eggs are empty and others contain silly words. Let them discover that for themselves and still persevere to find the Wonder Truth!

Ahead of time, print the Wonder Eggs Sheet. Cut out the words and hide each inside a plastic egg. Place all 24 eggs inside a box or plastic container and mix it up. (Nine of the eggs will be empty.) If your group is large, prepare multiple sets of Wonder Eggs, one for each small group.

In this game, kids will search for the words to the Wonder Truth hidden inside plastic eggs and correctly assemble the Lesson 3 Holy Week Wonder Truth: Jesus Loves Us and Gave His Life for Us.

Gather kids together. **Inside this box are 24 plastic eggs.** Hold up the container of eggs. **We will take turns searching for all the words to the Wonder Truth. You'll have to figure out which words are a part of the Wonder Truth and which are not.** Encourage kids as they work together to open each egg and put together the Wonder Truth: Jesus Loves Us and Gave His Life for Us.

When finished, gather kids together and continue: **In our game, we searched for all the parts to the Wonder Truth. We didn't expect to find empty eggs or silly words. Today in God's big story, we learned Jesus loves us and gave His life for us. Jesus came to save people, but it didn't look like what many expected.**

# GAME 4: HE IS RISEN!

**SUPPLIES:** blindfold

This game works  
great with The  
Resurrection lesson!

## Make It Inclusive!

Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities

Some kids may not be comfortable wearing blindfolds. That's OK! Allow them to close their eyes tightly if selected to be "It."

In this game, kids hide around the room and stay in place. The person who is "It" is blindfolded and calls out, "He is!" The hiding kids respond, "Risen!"

**Let's play a game like "Marco Polo" called "He Is Risen!" One person is It and wears a blindfold. While the person who is It counts to 25, everyone else hides around the room and then remains standing in one spot. It calls out, "He is!" And those hiding respond, "Risen!" The person who is It searches with her arms out for another person. Whoever she tags is out and will sit along the side cheering silently with spirit fingers while the others continue playing.** Demonstrate spirit fingers by raising both hands and wiggling your fingers. **Remember that you have to call out, "Risen!" every time It calls out, "He is!"** Play until all but one kid is out. Or if your group is large, play until about five kids are out, and then select a new It and invite everyone to participate in a new round of the game.

**Leader Tip:** If your group is large, select a small group of kids to play the game while the rest watch. Kids not participating can cheer silently with spirit fingers (raising both hands and wiggling their fingers). If done on stage, assign a leader to walk beside the person who is "It" to keep her safe from the edge.

When finished, gather kids together. **In our game, the person who was It had to listen carefully for the voices of those hiding and then search for them. In God's big story today, we learned how Mary looked for Jesus after His death. When Jesus said Mary's name, she knew it was Him! Jesus conquered death and lives! He is risen!**

# GAME 5: ICE CREAM CONE SMASH

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), ice cream cones (1 per kid), small candies (jelly beans, chocolate-shelled candies, round fruit-flavored candies, etc.), tiny prizes (rings, bouncy balls, erasers), disposable tablecloths or tarps (2), table

This game works great with The Road to Emmaus lesson!

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Cone Smash Sheet

## Allergy Caution

This activity includes possible food allergens!

Ahead of time, print the Cone Smash Sheet and cut out the slips of paper. Place one disposable tablecloth or tarp on top of the table and one underneath it. Create a few rows (based on number of kids participating) of ice cream cones upside down on the tabletop (one cone per kid). Underneath each upside-down cone place a small candy, a tiny prize, or a slip of paper from the Cone Smash Sheet with a silly task on it. Kids will take turns smashing one cone to reveal a surprise. (If your group is large, set up multiple tables with upside-down ice cream cones on them.)

In this game, kids will smash an ice cream cone to discover a surprise.

**Hidden underneath each ice cream cone is a surprise. One at a time, you'll pick a cone. Use your hand to smash one cone to see what your surprise is. The surprises aren't all the same! If your surprise is a slip of paper, read it and do what it says!**

## Make It Inclusive

**Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities**

Be available to help younger kids and those with reading challenges read the slips of paper. Some kids will be uncomfortable performing the silly task in front of the others, so allow them to choose a friend to perform with them or invite a leader to partner with them.

Once all the kids have had a turn smashing a cone and discovering their prizes, gather everyone together and continue: **Just like we were surprised to see what was underneath the ice cream cones we smashed, Jesus surprised His followers. Jesus appeared to His followers after His death! Jesus is alive—that's the best surprise ever!**

# GAME 6: NAME THAT STORY

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), basket or bowl, posterboard or whiteboard, marker or dry-erase marker, tape

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Name That Story Sheet

This game works great as a review of the Connected Easter series!

**Leader Tip:** For Older Kids. Erase the lesson titles on the board after reading the first two key points. Then number the lessons one through five (in chronological order).

Ahead of time, print the Name That Story Sheet and cut the slips apart. Place the slips in a basket or bowl and mix them up. Write the title of each Connected Easter lesson in large print on a posterboard or whiteboard with space between each one: The Burning Bush, Crossing the Red Sea, Holy Week, The Resurrection, The Road to Emmaus.

In this game, kids will identify the lesson from the Connected Easter series that is described by each slip from the Name That Story Sheet and tape that slip under the title of that lesson.

**Let's see how much we remember from the parts of God's big story we've explored during the Connected Easter series! Hold up the basket or bowl of slips. In this basket are slips of paper with Wonder Truths and key points from the Bible stories on them. You're going to take turns pulling slips of paper and reading them out loud. Then those who think they know which lesson the Wonder Truth or key point is from will raise their hands. I will call on someone to name that story, and if she is right, she'll come up and tape that slip of paper below that lesson title. We will play until we've gone through all the slips and named all the stories correctly.** Invite a kid volunteer to pull a slip from the basket and read it to the group. Then choose someone with a hand raised to identify which lesson (written on the board) the slip describes. If that person is correct, she can come up and tape the slip to the board. If she is incorrect, give someone else a chance to answer. Continue until all the slips have been read and the correct stories identified.



## **Make It Inclusive**

### **Tip for Including Kids with Unique Abilities**

For younger kids and those with reading challenges, be available to read the slips for them. Also keep in mind that many kids may not have been present to hear all five Connected Easter Bible stories, and others might simply struggle to recall what they learned. Therefore, consider having kids work in pairs for this activity.

Below is a list of all the key points and the corresponding lessons in order for your reference:

### **The Burning Bush**

God Hears and Sees His People

Moses saw a strange sight. A bush was on fire but not burning up.

### **Crossing the Red Sea**

God Rescues His People

God made a way for the people of Israel to escape through the Red Sea.

### **Holy Week**

Jesus Loves Us and Gave His Life for Us

Jesus was led outside the city and nailed to a cross.

### **The Resurrection**

Jesus Lives

Mary went to tell the disciples the incredible news. "She said, 'I have seen the Lord!' " (John 20:18).

### **The Road to Emmaus**

Jesus Surprises Us

Jesus helped His followers understand that what happened to Him had been written about in the Scriptures.

When kids have correctly identified all the stories, continue: **We've learned a lot over the past few weeks about Jesus. Jesus died to make the way back to God for us. He defeated sin and death and is alive today! Jesus has done so much for us! We have so much to think about and praise Him for!**